GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4854
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2008
AGREEMENT WITH BLACKBERRY AND INDIAN TELECOM OPERATORS
Aaron Rashid Shri J.M.

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been agreement alliance between Blackberry with some Indian telecom operators that allow to offer services providers to use the brand name " Blackberry" in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has proposed to allow Virtual Mobile Network Operators (VMNO) to telecom operators in alliance with foreign based companies; and (

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

(a) & (b)The Service Providers namely, M/s BPL Mobile Communications Limited, M/s Bharti Airtel Limited, M/s Bharti Hexacom Limited, Vodafone Group Companies (except M/s Vodafone Essar Spacetel Limited) and M/s Reliance Communications Limited & M/s Reliance Telecom limited have reported that they have entered into agreement with Research In Motion (RIM) to provide "BlackBerry Services" to their customers. Under the agreement, main services offered are voice, data and internet. The customers can use devices / handsets manufactured by RIM or any other compatible handsets from Nokia, Motoralla, Sony Ericsson, etc.

(c) Department of Telecommunications has sought the recommendations of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) under section 11(1)(a)
(i) &
(ii) on need and timing for introduction of Virtual Mobile Network Operators (VMNO) as well as terms and conditions of the License to be granted to such operators.

(d) The decision will be taken after considering the recommendations of TRAI on the subject.